



# NOAA FY 2000 Budget Request Fact Sheet

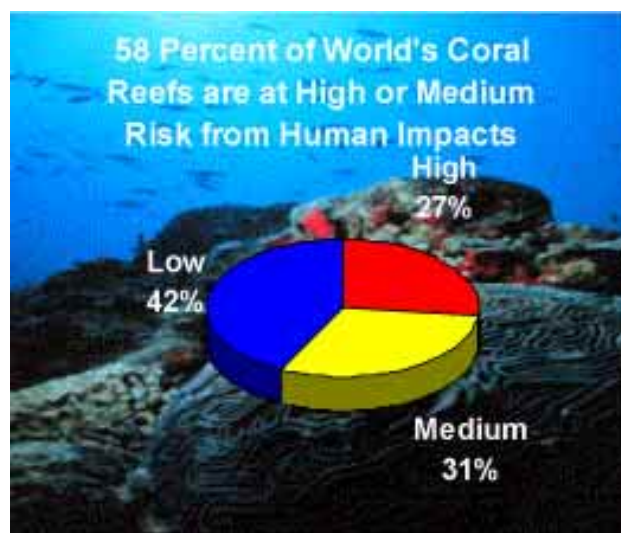
## RESOURCE PROTECTION INITIATIVE



### Conserving Ocean Biodiversity

NOAA requests an increase of \$2.6 million to assess and conserve our nation's marine and estuarine biological diversity - the foundation of life in the sea and the living capital of our coastal communities. These funds will allow the National Marine Fisheries Service and its partners to 1) identify and map major marine and estuarine habitats of importance to biological diversity and protected species, prioritizing these areas for conservation or restoration; and 2) identify and map major threats to these habitats and ecosystems. These activities also support and complement funds requested through the National Ocean Service to begin bio-diversity monitoring in priority ecosystems and enhancing the protection of coral reefs, our nation's most complex and diverse marine ecosystems. This request is a key component of NOAA's Resource Protection Initiative, and supports other components requested under this effort.

from marine organisms in research funded by Sea Grant have a market potential estimated at \$2 billion. Marine ecosystems such as coral reefs, provide habitat for countless species as well as natural goods and services such as carbon storage, atmospheric gas regulation, nutrient cycling, and waste treatment. The global value of these coastal marine "ecosystem services" has been estimated at \$12.6 trillion. How do we ensure this treasure?



Coral Reefs are at risk from human impacts.

#### NOAA Budget

FY 2000  
Change  
\$M

##### National Marine Fisheries Service

##### Conservation and Management Operations

|                                       |        |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| (ESA Recovery Planning/Salmon)        | \$22.4 |
| (ESA Recovery Planning/Other Species) | \$ 5.1 |
| (Conserving Ocean Biodiversity)       | \$ 2.6 |
| (Enforcement and Surveillance)        | \$ 1.0 |

##### Other Accounts

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| (Pacific Coastal Salmon Conservation Fund) | \$100.0 |
|--|---------|

**NOAA Resource Protection Initiative - -Total \$131.1**

### The Problem

Although we have made great strides in protecting individual species, human activities along our nation's coasts continue to place increasing pressures on marine and estuarine systems as a whole. Nearly one-third of the nation's federally managed fishery species for which we have sufficient data are overfished, 27 salmonid populations are listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened, and populations of the northern right whale, Hawaiian monk seals, and stellar sea lions continue to decline. Meanwhile, in most marine environments we do not even know what species exist, much less whether they are endangered and what their loss will mean to other species that share their ecosystem.

The ocean's biological diversity —the living resources that compose it and the ecological processes that support it— sustain the nation's fisheries and hold the promise for future economic productivity. For example, just five drugs developed

### Responding to the Problem

The NOAA Biodiversity Initiative takes a proactive approach to conserving whole groups of species, their habitats and the ecological web of life on which they depend. NOAA and its Federal and State partners will identify and map areas of important biological diversity, habitat for endangered species and commercial and recreational fishery species, and coastal and marine areas that provide key ecosystem functions. By determining the threats from pollution and other human impacts to these areas, NOAA will provide options for conserving productive and pristine areas, and restore priority degraded areas.

### NOAA's Role

NOAA's Biodiversity Initiative integrates the scientific, technical, and management capabilities residing within NOAA and pioneers a new level of partnership with other Federal agencies, states, and resource users to provide an ecosystem approach to living resource management.

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